



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
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June 27, 2019

Tim Urian
74543-08423230@requests.muckrock.com

Dear Mr. Urian:

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RECORDS ACT REQUEST

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (LADA) is in receipt of your California Public Records Act (PRA) request dated May 31, 2019, seeking:

"A data set of criminal sentences given in Los Angeles County (all judgments imposed by the court on people that have been found guilty) for the period of time that the data are digitally available, with all related data points that are digitally accessible and legally available. Specific data points of interest are:- Type of sentence issued - Length of sentence- Sentencing date- Broad offense type of charge (name of offense, legal chapter and act)- Information about charges- Judge who issued the sentence - Law enforcement agency associated with the arrest- Age of defendant (and any other allowable demographic information)- Defendant's prior sentence information, if applicable."

In carefully reviewing your request, it appears that you are asking for all records of judgments entered in criminal cases in Los Angeles County together with specific details concerning the defendant, length of incarceration, charges, arresting agency, judicial officers, and defendants' previous criminal history for the period of time that goes back to when we began using a computer system for record keeping. While we keep information about sentences that are imposed, we cannot assure the accuracy of sentencing information. The LADA's Office does not directly input sentencing information into its computer system. Some sentencing information may have been imported from the court into the LADA system. Therefore, the LADA cannot verify the accuracy of this imported information. We suggest that you contact the Los Angeles County Superior Court directly for information about sentences imposed in criminal cases.

In addition, your request as stated, is overly broad; record requests that are overly burdensome are exempt from disclosure and no documents will be released. (See *American Civil Liberties Union v. Deukmejian* (1982) 32 Cal.3d 440, 452-453; *County of Santa Clara v. Superior Court*

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(2009) 170 Cal.App.4th 1301, 1321; *Bertoli v. City of Sebastopol* (2015) 233 Cal.App.4th 353, 360-363, 372; *State Board of Equalization v. Superior Court* (1992) 10 Cal. App.4th 1177, 1188.) The LADA files between 200,000 and 250,000 adult cases per year. Our current computer system began keeping track of cases in 1994-1995. The LADA utilized a different computer system prior to 1994. It would be overly burdensome to review some 5 million records from our current system for the data that you seek. (*California First Amendment Coalition v. Superior Court* (1998) 67 Cal.App.4th 159, 166 ["[a] clearly framed request which requires an agency to search an enormous volume of data for a 'needle in the haystack' or, conversely, a request which compels the production of a huge volume of material may be objectionable as unduly burdensome"].)

Please feel free to contact me for further assistance.

Very truly yours,

JACKIE LACEY
District Attorney

By



Ruth Low
Special Assistant
Administration